## Message Text

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R 081540Z SEP 77 FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1907 USDOC WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EEWT. UR

SUBJECT: DECEMBER US-USSR TRADE PROMOTION SEMINAR

1. DURING CONVERSATION SEPTEMBER 7 AT SPASO HOUSE RECEPTION FOR CHEMISTRY '77, E/C COUNSELOR TOLD MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF AMERICAN STATES SECTION MEL'NIKOV THAT WE STILL HAVE NO FINAL REACTION TO HIS SUGGESTION OF DIVIDING TWO SCHEDULED SEMINARS INTO SOVIET PRESENTATION IN DECEMBER AND US PRESENTATION IN MOSCOW IN 1978. (MEL'NIKOV HAS BEEN ASKING FOR AN ANSWER TO HIS "INFORMAL" PROPOSAL ON EVERY OCCASIONAL MEETING.) MEL'NIKOV RESPONDED THAT HE HAS RECEIVED AND ANSWER WHICH HE CONSIDERS DEFINITIVE THROUGH SOVIET TRADE REPRESENTATIVE IN U.S. ANSWER WAS THAT USG APPARENTLY PREFERS TO HAVE TRADE PROMOTION SEMINAR DECEMBER 7-9 WITH PRESENTATIONS BY BOTH SIDES. MEL'NIKOV SAID THAT HE STILL PREFERRED HIS OWN SUGGESTION ALTHOUGH HE THOUGHT SOVIETS WOULD GO ALONG WITH US VIEWS, IF NECESSARY. DURING TELEPHONE CONVERSATION SEPTEMBER 8. HOWEVER, HE AGAIN PRESSED FOR A RESPONSE FROM WASHINGTON TO HIS PROPOSAL.

2. MEL'NIKOV REPORTED HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT SEMINAR WOULD BE CHAIRED ON U.S. SIDE BY EDWARD H. STROH, USDOC/BEWT DEPUTY DIRECTOR. ASKED WHO MIGHT HEAD UP SOVIET LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DELEGATION IN THAT CASE, MEL'NIKOV SAID THAT HE MIGHT DO SO HIMSELF.

3. COMMENT: WE DO NOT VIEW MEL'NIKOV'S STATEMENT ON LEVEL OF REPRESENTATION AS DEFINITIVE. A MORE APPROPRIATE LEVEL WOULD BE MEL'NIKOV'S DIRECT SUPERIOR, NIKOLAY ZINOV'YEV.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: WE ARE SEEING MEL'NIKOV FOR LUNCH SEPTEMBER 12 AND WOULD APPRECIATE RESPONSE TO HIS PROPOSAL, WHICH WE ASSUME HAS NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY USG. TOON

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## Message Attributes

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